**Environmental Studies: Climate Science and Policy Spring 2013**

mhsclimatechange.wikispaces.com

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**Description:**  Welcome to Environmental Studies! This class combines the study of environmental processes and the human interaction with the natural world. To cover both of these perspectives, Environmental Studies is team taught, so students will spend some time with both teachers throughout the semester. Our topic this semester is “Climate Science and Policy”, one of the most important and difficult challenges facing our world today!

**Course Outline/Schedule:**

* **Q1 Unit I-** Causes of Climate Change
* **Q1 Unit II-** Consequences of Climate Change
* **Q2 Unit III-** Solutions for the Future
* **Q2 Unit IV-** Climate Change Politics and Policy

Semester grade = (Quarter 1)45% +( Quarter 2)45% + (Final Exam)10%

**Field Trips:** We will take a number of field trips during our class period. At the start of the year all students must have their field trip waivers signed by a parent, and pay the $10 field trip fee to cover the cost of busing.

**Materials Needed:** You will need a three ring binder with dividers and loose leaf paper OR a folder and spiral notebook dedicated to this class. Of course you should also have a pen/pencil and extra paper.

**Late Work:** Please turn in your work on time!  Any work turned in late will be accepted up to the end of the unit, and marked down 30%.

**Student Conduct:** All school policies and rules apply in this class, see course handbook for details. (tardies/absences, hats, food etc.)

Please note that cell phones, music players and other electronic devices are not allowed in the classroom or in other areas (computer labs, LMC, hallways) during class time. These devices will be confiscated and turned in to student services for pickup at the end of the next school day.

Finally, all work and writing that you submit must be in your own words. Work that is copied from another source or another student will receive zero, and students who allow their work to be copied will also receive a zero. Please refer to the handbook for more details.

**Service Learning Requirement:** So many opportunities exist in our community to get involved and increase your knowledge of environmental issues. During the semester you will need to complete the Environmental Stewardship Service Learning Project. If you already took Environmental Studies I, you may extend your service learning project from last semester or choose to complete a separate (entirely different project). Please see the project rubric for a description of the project

**Lifestyle Changes:** What changes can you make in your daily life to live in a more sustainable way? Throughout the semester we’ll be asking you to analyze different aspects of your carbon footprint and consider what changes you can make to reduce it.

Please review with your parent/guardian and sign below. Show them the parent letter on the back, and get the permission forms signed. Please return on Friday with your $10 field trip payment.

Student \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Parent/Guardian\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_